

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 00616

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG NO CA IEA

SUBJECT: IEA: LONG-TERM COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

REF: STATE 13806, OSLO 326 (NOTAL), BRUSSELS 529, STATE 10224
(NOTAL)

1. WE CALLED ON DENIS, DIRECTOR OF ENERGY OFFICE OF BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY, (DAVIGNON BEING UNAVAILABLE), TO ASCERTAIN DAVIGNON'S VIEWS OF PROSPECTS FOR ADOPTION BY GOVERNING BOARD OF LONG-TERM PROGRAM AT JANUARY 29-30 MEETING. DENIS SAID THAT DAVIGNON CONSIDERS NORWAY, CANADA AND JAPAN TO BE THE THREE COUNTRIES WITH SERIOUS PROBLEMS, BUT THAT SPAIN, TURKEY AND NEW ZEALAND HAD EXPRESSED SOME UNCERTAINTY TO DAVIGNON AS TO THEIR ABILITY TO COMMIT THEMSELVES TO THE LONG-TERM PROGRAM. SPAIN'S PROBLEM WAS ESSENTIALLY INTERNAL IN THAT THERE APPEARED TO BE NO ONE IN AUTHORITY PREPARED TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS COMMITMENT IN THE PRESENT POLITICAL SITUATION. DENIS WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT THE SPANISH WOULD BE ABOARD, ESPECIALLY SINCE THEIR AMBASSADOR IN BRUSSELS HAD MADE THIS A POINT OF HONOR FOR HIMSELF PERSONALLY. TURKEY WAS CONCERNED ABOUT ITS STATUS AS A DEVELOPING COUNTRY, BUT DENIS THINKS THEY WILL BE SATISFIED WITH LANGUAGE ADAPTED FROM OTHER OECD MATTERS THAT HAS PROVEN SATISFACTORY TO THE TURKS IN THE PAST. NEW ZEALAND'S PROBLEM WAS
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DESCRIBED AS "SEMANTIC", AND IS LIKELY TO BE OVERCOME BY A

SUGGESTION DAVIGNON HAS MADE.

2. IN THESE CASES, AS WELL AS WITH THE THREE SERIOUS CASES, DAVIGNON HAS ARGUED THAT IT WILL DO NO GOOD TO POSTPONE THE DECISION BEYOND THIS MONTH BECAUSE THE AGREEMENT WILL NOT BE IMPROVED THEREBY. INSTEAD, DELAY WOULD COMPLICATE THINGS- IN MUCH THE WAY DESCRIBED IN STATE 12729 (NOTAL). DENIS ADDED THAT DAVIGNON HAD TOLD PRESS, AS AUTHORIZED BY GOVERNING BOARD, THAT LONG-TERM COOPERATION PROGRAM WOULD BE FORMALLY ADOPTED AT JANUARY 29-30 MEETING. HE IS TRYING TO GET ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES TO ACCEPT TEXT (IEA/GB(75)81, 2ND REVISION) "WITHOUT CHANGING A SINGLE COMMA." HE HOPES TO WORK OUT SATISFACTORY FORMULATIONS OF RESERVATIONS AND SPECIAL CONCERNS FOR EACH COUNTRY WITH SUCH PROBLEMS TO BE PLACED IN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING ONLY, WITHOUT TOUCHING THE BASIC DOCUMENT. DAVIGNON HAS INVITED COUNTRIES WHICH STILL HAVE PROBLEMS TO SEND REPRESENTATIVE FROM CAPITALS TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS WITH HIM BEFORE THE 29TH.

3. AS FOR NORWAY, DENIS WAS KEENLY INTERESTED IN OUR SUMMARY OF USG ARGUMENTATION DRAWN FROM STATE 13806 AND PREVIOUS, AS WELL AS OBSERVATIONS FROM OSLO 326 AND PREVIOUS. HE HAD NO NEW INSIGHT FROM DAVIGNON ON HOW TO PERSUADE NORWEGIANS TO ADOPT PROGRAM ON 29TH BUT POINTED OUT THAT BOTH COMMERCE AND ENERGY MINISTERS ARE NEW TO NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT AND ARE NATURALLY RELUCTANT TO TAKE MAJOR DECISION BEFORE BECOMING FAMILIAR WITH ISSUES. IN ADDITION, DENIS SAID THAT COMMERCE MINISTER IS YOUNG LEFTIST WHO WOULD APPROACH IEA ISSUES WITH NEGATIVE BIAS. THERE IS ALSO SOME FEELING THAT NORWAY IS STILL REACTING NEGATIVELY TO HAVING BEEN LEFT OUT OF CIEC GROUP OF 8. AUSTRIA, WHICH WAS SIMILARLY DISAPPOINTED, WAS OFFERED IEA VICE PRESIDENCY IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER, BUT NORWAY HAS RECEIVED NO COMPENSATION, DESPITE THEIR EXPECTATION OF BECOMING THE LEADING SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRY AS NORTH SEA OIL PRODUCTION MAKES ITS INFLUENCE FELT.

4. AS FOR CANADA, DAVIGNON SEEKS TO ESTABLISH THAT CANADA'S SITUATION IS SUI GENERIS AND CANNOT BE USED AS A PRECEDENT FOR OTHERS. AFTER LAST GB MEETING HE
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PROPOSED A STATEMENT FOR THE CANADIANS TO MAKE AT TIME OF ADOPTION OF LONG-TERM PROGRAM, BUT ON JANUARY 13 THE CANADIANS INFORMED HIM THAT THEIR MINISTERS HAD AGREED TO USE A STATEMENT THAT VARIED SUBSTANTIALLY FROM DAVIGNON'S DRAFT. (DENIS GAVE US A COPY OF THE CANADIAN LETTER, WHICH WE ARE SENDING BY SEPTTEL .) DAVIGNON TOLD THEM THAT THE NEW CANADIAN TEXT WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE GB AND HAS SUGGESTED TWO NEW AMENDMENTS TO

CANADIAN STATEMENT. HE IS NOW AWAITING CANADA'S REACTION. JAPAN IS CONCERNED OVER HOW IT CAN PRESENT TO ITS LEGISLATURE AN AGREEMENT THAT OFFERS EXCEPTIONAL TREATMENT TO CANADA. THEIR CONCERNS CANNOT BE MET FULLY UNTIL AFTER A SATISFACTORY FORMULA IS WORKED OUT WITH THE CANADIANS.

5. OUR DISCUSSION WITH DENIS PRECEDED MEETINGS OF DAVIGNON/ DENIS WITH NORWEGIANS, AND POSSIBLY CANADIANS, TODAY, AND WE HAVE NOT YET LEARNED IF ANY PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE TOWARD BREAKING IMPASSE.
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